GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3553
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2017
Committee on Drug Price
Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up any Committee to make drugs affordable for the common man;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the time by which the above proposal is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS; MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Government has constituted a Committee of Joint Secretaries for ensuring enhanced affordability, availability and accessibility of Drugs for the citizens. The Terms of Reference of the Committee are as under:

i. Measures to be taken for making pricing policy more in favour of poor patient's affordable Medicare and Health Security;

ii. Review the scope of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013), and to suggest ways for strengthening the regulatory provisions of the order;
iii. Suggest ways for making the existing mechanisms for collection of market-based data on prices of medicines more robust and stream-lined and for strengthening the existing pharmaceutical database management system.
iv. Procedural improvements and process re-engineering in NPPA to ensure better and quicker implementation of Government Policy (Drug Price Control Order) and bring greater transparency so as to reduce litigations and review petitions. Draft detailed Standard Operating Protocol (SOPs) may be recommended for identified regulatory functions such as pricing of medicines, monitoring and enforcement activities, action against pharmaceutical companies in overpricing cases etc.;
v. Suggest ways to make DPCO, 2013 more comprehensive in light of past experience of implementing DPCO.

(c): As various approval and legal advice are required, no time limit can be indicated at this stage.

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